

Series I
Correspondence,
1932-1973

Box 4, Folder 13

January 15, 1954 -
August 25, 1954

0042

Outgoing, 1954

Admiral Hewitt, 13 August 1954

Relates to Admiral Theobald's book on Pearl Harbor

(Letters to Bergen, 8 September 1954

(& memo for Kalbfus, 3 September 1954

(To Nimitz, 7 September 1954

Relate to Death of Admiral Kalbfus

0043

January 15, 1954

Dear Joe:

I have been wanting to write you for a long time about the marriage of your daughter, which, of course, occurred a few days before Christmas. I sent her a present from Taunton which I hope she found worthwhile. I have every reason to believe that the marriage was a beautiful affair and that the parents made just as effective appearance as did the lovely lady.

I haven't advanced very far since I sent you the October 19th writeup because other matters interfered and I had to go to the Allied side. I am now working again on the Japanese side. However, in view of one of your comments enclosed herewith, with relation to the meaning of the words, "In support of" I wrote an additional paragraph which I plan to incorporate in the writeup. It is my hope that this will clear up your opposition. George Phelan thinks it quite satisfactory. I should appreciate your thoughts in the matter.

I have been trying to get the Navy Department to issue you orders to come back here, but so far I have been ineffective. It is all a question of money and of policy.

You will be interested to know that Mrs. Tanaka has found a number of documents in the National Archives concerning the air operations which are of considerable interest. Also she has found data through the Office of Military History (Army) on (a) the FOURTH Air Army, (b) the Army Daily Record of the War, (c) the Diary of Commander Southwest Area and (d) the Diary of the Commander of the FIFTH Base Air Force. Some of these are pretty good, some not so good. The Army Daily Record is fine because it shows that the Army on October 19th had reports of twenty-eight large Allied carriers, fourteen small and forty CVEs off the Philippines. Meanwhile the Navy reported having sighted sixteen large carriers and five small ones on the same day. Therefore, the Army statement that they changed their plans on the 20th because they thought that they had destroyed the Allied carriers is pure fabrication. I am taking this up with our Army Historians as they are quite interested.

Best regards old friend--take care of yourself.

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES

Encl/

0044

January 29, 1954

Dear George & Marguerite:

Although I have been a little bit slow in writing to you to tell you how much I enjoyed my visit and dinner with you I nevertheless appreciated the privilege of seeing you very much indeed.

As you probably know, I have enjoyed a great friendship with you for many years and therefore to see you both, after the long absence in Luxembourg, was delightful. I was particularly pleased to observe how well your whole family was, and to note with delight the happiness of Betty and her husband. Colonel Ellis seemed as pleased as a little boy over a stick of candy, and I loved him for it.

As you perhaps know we have had a lot of trouble up here with Nature. Not only have we had pretty cold weather, although not too bad, but also we have lost two of our better known citizens, notably Fanny White and Louis Bruguiere. Fanny was, of course, expected to pass on because she had been ill for a very long time. Louis on the other hand was known to be ill, but I don't think anyone thought that ill. The loss of Fanny was a terrific blow to Gus who fought nobly to save her, but now that she is gone everyone knows that it was for the best. Her estate, which was willed to Gus, was over \$125,000.

Louis death was feared, but I am sure that his sudden departure into another world was a definite surprise.

Many of your old friends ask after you and I have told them that you were planning to obtain a house in Washington, that your daughter is well, that Ferle was on a speaking tour in Texas, and that you both appeared very happy indeed.

The White funeral mass was held at St. Mary's since, about a week before Fanny's death, she became a Roman Catholic. St. Mary's is not small, but the attendance was very large including many who came from New York, among whom were Forsythe and Marion Wickes and Charley Dunlap.

0045

As for myself, I am standing the climate very well. Perhaps I am hardening to the New England weather.

I forgot to say that I told Mr. White and Mr. Richmond that you were interested in selling your house, but, since I haven't seen Mr. Morison up here recently, I think that we will have to await for his arrival. I know that he is interested in Beachmound.

Once again, many thanks for the invitation to dinner and for the pleasure of having seen you again, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES

Mr. George Tyson
Sheraton-Park Hotel
Washington, D. C.

0046

February 1, 1954

Dear "Friend" Brigham:

I am returning to you unanswered your "billet-doux" concerning the names of candidates for admission to the Quendecim.

I am returning it unanswered as this method of procedure is not in accordance with the methods of procedure of any club. Instead, candidates are voted on by the Admissions Committee, or as it is better known, the Membership Committee, in committee meetings and not by check-off list.

I have personally expressed a view, which view has been supported by Admiral Yarnell and was supported also by Dr. Knowles, and, possibly by Mr. William Whitehouse that we are not going to load the Club with Navy members.

I have no objection to voting in Admiral Varian who will be here on and off, but I prefer to register my comments in committee.

I presume from this check-off list you have decided that this is the only way you can have a meeting at present. With this view I naturally do not agree.

Outside of this "how the hell are you?"

With best regards, I am,

Sincerely,

R.W. BATES

Encl/

Mr. Herbert O. Brigham
91 Rhode Island Avenue
Newport, R.I.

RWB/mwb

0047

February 4, 1954

Dear Jimmy:

It was a great pleasure to receive a Christmas card from you and to note not only what a pretty card it was but how beautifully your headquarters are housed. I wouldn't have expected anything less from Admiral Mountbatten. I suppose that this is a new building. Not only does it look it but the buildings of Malta were bombed so heavily during World War II that a building of this size would not have survived. I hope that you are enjoying yourself. In the minds of all of us, yours is a big job in that you represent the good old USA in that area of the world!

I have been to Washington a couple of times recently and I always miss dropping in to see you. However, today your successor Matt Gardner will be here and I hope to comment to him about you.

Your weather there in the Mediterranean must be delightful. Ours is extraordinary, varying from 0°F in Newport to about 50°F in a matter of a day. The temperatures in the surrounding area have been much lower--something like minus 20. However, for some reason we have all survived--possibly I am becoming hardened!

There isn't much new to report. The usual problems are underway in Washington--problems with which you are much more familiar than I am. However, I think for your own good that it is well you are not there for the present. They would try to work you to death. From what I have seen, the only reason they wouldn't succeed is your indestructibility.

As you probably know, Dick Conolly has left the War College and his place is being taken temporarily by Admiral Tommy Robbins who was Chief of Staff and who will be Chief of Staff again when the new President arrives. Whom that will be we don't know, but rumors favor McCormick.

0048

Conolly is now President of Long Island University and will be inaugurated on the 18th of this month. He is very happy in his new assignment but he has much more to do than he had planned on. The University apparently is not in too good shape, particularly financially, but Conolly is confident he will get it ship-shape presently.

With best wishes for a continued happy cruise and with many thanks for your Christmas card, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES

Vice Admiral James Fife, USN
U.S. Naval Deputy,
Commander in Chief, Allied Forces,
Mediterranean
Navy No. 240
c/o Fleet Post Office
New York, N.Y.

February 5, 1954

Dear Joe:

By the time you receive this you will have received your invitation to the Global Strategy Discussions. I know that that is what you wished and since it is what I wished also, I am glad that it has culminated satisfactorily.

There wasn't any question about it, but the ~~Acting~~ President of the Naval War College, Rear Admiral Thomas H. Robbins, Jr., USN, couldn't get himself orientated and there was apparently pressure from other sources which caused him to delay on acting on most of the invitations. In fact they are only going out now. Your invitation is one of the "At large" so you are not in the Commandant's quota. I hope you haven't been concerned about the delay, but you might have known that it would be O.K.

Thank you for the newspaper clippings about your "great buddy" Jimmy Roosevelt. I am sorry about the whole affair and I am not at all sure that it is true. There may be some truth in it, but since I know one of the women concerned quite well I would suspect that, in her case at least, it is out of the question.

I am looking forward to seeing you here in June!

With very best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mr. J. Joseph Sullivan
Attorney and Counsellor at Law
ONE ELEVEN Sutter Street
San Francisco 4, California

0050

February 8, 1954

My dear Mr. Daniel:

Although I have been somewhat slow in writing to you in answer to your very kind letter of January 6th, I know that you have received a reply from Admiral Heffernan because he spoke to me in Washington about it.

For your information, I cannot help you at all at present because we are nowhere nearly advanced to the Battle for Leyte Gulf proper. We are writing up the day of the landings which was October 20th so that five days more are required before the battle of Surigao Strait.

I cannot answer your queries about the planes although I remember seeing them myself--that is I think I do--although memory being so deceptive I would be reluctant to firm up the idea at this moment. I have no doubt that you could write a good article on this whole affair.

Unfortunately, even if I had completed this study it would not be available to you since it is classified "confidential" and has a very limited distribution within the Navy. The Battle of Surigao Strait was, as you say, very successful and probably was the last battle of its type. However, there are a lot of events in that action which require clarification and I hope to accomplish this in my study.

I have not used the extracts I took from your Volume because what we are doing here is a "blow-by-blow" account based primarily on official documents, which often is different from an account based on memory. Therefore, I have had to confine myself to the study of the reports, dispatches, and so forth, in order to arrive at the actual story.

I don't want any particular credit by any writer for my share in the Battle of Surigao Strait, no matter what my share might have been. The Commander was Admiral Oldendorf--to him belongs the credit just as surely as would the condemnation had he failed.

I wish I could tell you more about this battle but there isn't much to say as I pointed out in the beginning. The

0051

study here is a very intimate technical affair and therefore is of a type quite alien to your manner of writing, or to that of any other writer or historian that I know of. It is dry and definitely objective.

Some day, in a few years, perhaps, when we have finished this study you might get permission for us to give you the information, both positive and negative, that you desire. I wish that we could do it now, but we haven't the information yet and when we do get it, it would take a Washington release.

If you are around this way I should be glad to see you.

With very best regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

R.W. BATES

Mr. Hawthorne Daniel
37 Standish Avenue
Tuckahoe 7, N.Y.

RWB:mwb

February 15, 1954

Dear Admiral Kalbfus:

I am returning to you herewith your original copy of the comments by Doctor Murdock on Sound Military Decision and the memorandum which you prepared for Captain Judge. I am also enclosing herewith a number of copies for your use. Should you desire more, I will be happy to supply them.

I want to thank you very much for your kindness in loaning these papers and authorizing us to use them.

I will see you on February 22nd at the Reading Room. I am going to Washington tomorrow night.

With very best regards, I am,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES

Admiral Edward C. Kalbfus, USN (Ret)
Miantonomi Avenue
Newport, R.I.

Encl/

RWB:mwb

0053

February 27, 1954

Dear Dick:

I hope that you haven't felt that I have been ungrateful not to have written, ere, this, to express to you my pleasure at being your guest at the L.I.U. Inauguration ceremonies. However, I caught a fearful cold on my trip to Washington and New York, and I have been more or less "hors de combat." Today I am showing signs of improvement and my cold, which has stayed in my head, is gradually retiring. I hope by the time you arrive here next week I will be in reasonably good shape.

I want to tell you how thoroughly I enjoyed the inauguration proceedings. I didn't even object to the delay which was occasioned possibly in part, because the guests of prominence wished a drink. You did a fine job in both the inauguration ceremony and at the dinner. I thought that your comments had character- as did other people around me. You have obviously made a lot of friends around New York already, and I feel confident that as the MOGULS get to know you, you will conquer them just as you conquered Newport.

The affair in the Starlight Room was very good indeed- the food excellent. I liked my seat on the Dias and I hope that there I reflected adequately your old Alma Mater- the Naval War College.

Admiral McCormick showed up here the other day. I am sure he will be a fine successor to your able self, and I feel that Lillian will be like wise for Helen. Lynde says that he wanted this job very much because he thinks it highly important in modern Naval Warfare and secondly because he feels that he has much to give in view of his recent assignments.

Once again let me thank you very much for inviting me to your dinner and for making me your guest at your home. I felt and feel highly honored.

With best regards to you and yours, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

Admiral Richard L. Conolly, USN(Ret)
President, Long Island University
385 Flatbush Avenue
Brooklyn 1, New York

R. W. BATES

0054

March 2, 1954

Dear Jack:

I have been quite slow in writing to you to congratulate you on your promotion to Rear Admiral.

My failure to write you is due to the fact that I was away for one week and then I caught a cold, which I still have. I just couldn't write. Now, however, I feel much better, so I am writing to tell you of how pleased I am that the selection board saw fit to choose you out of the many for a job where, in case of war, you will be called upon to assist the Navy in the prosecution of its objectives. This, from what I have seen of you, you can well do! Your handling of the Navy League in New York, your great assistance here at Global Strategy, your ability to make and retain powerful friends and your successes in the business world, all plainly indicate your high standard of accomplishments.

I wanted you to be promoted and I am glad that you got it. Some people may wonder why a businessman is made a Rear Admiral and yet they forget that a Reserve Rear Admiral, as well as many Regular Rear Admirals, are not expected to fight battles, but are expected to assist in the advancement of sea power without which the nation cannot long survive.

I was awfully sorry to hear that you had lost your kneecap, but I am sure that anything that Mayos did about it is correct, and I am sure that your leg will be almost as good as new. Perhaps the good Lord wants to slow you down a little bit, and has chosen this method rather than some much more serious illness as a cautionary device.

Dick Conolly will be here tomorrow and I look forward to seeing him. He is a fine friend and a capable gentleman. I am sure that the whole War College will view his return with interest and pleasure, even if for only one day.

0055

Give my very kindest regards to your family, to Joe Frazer, who's daughter took \$5.00 from me the other night at Canasta, and to the other members of your staff whom I know.

Once again Jack, congratulations on your promotion and with very best regards, I am,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES

Rear Admiral John J. Bergen, USNR
John J. Bergen & Company
40 Wall Street
New York, N.Y.

RWB:mwb

0056

2 April 1954

Dear Ham:

I received your announcement of a PT reunion to be held at Boston on April 9th with mingled emotions. This is because I should like very much to attend this meeting, the more so because so far as I know it is the first one that we have had for sometime. However, I am unable to attend it because, on the night of April 9th, the War College is giving a show here and the President of the War College and I are giving a joint party for it.

Please give my best regards to the members of the New England Peter Tare and my sincere regrets at my inability to be present.

I hope that you will extend my regrets to Mr. Hudson. I am sure that his address will be very timely, and very interesting. I should have liked very much to hear him.

With best regards to everyone, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES,
Rear Admiral, USN (Ret)

Mr. H. Holton Wood
6 Wampatuck Road
Deham, Massachusetts

0057

6 April 1954

Dear Dick:

I have taken up the matter of Mr. William Zeckendorf for the GSD and find that his name has been in Washington for about one month and that as yet he has not been cleared. They are very slow in this matter in Washington and properly so. However, I expect to hear shortly that he is cleared. I will then advise you of the developments.

Thank you very much for your comments regarding Admiral Struble's performance. I have used the second write-up rather than the first, but I will probably include something about trying to save lives of the Filipinos who came to the landing beaches.

There isn't much new to report. The situation is well in hand and all hands are carrying out the Conolly policies which are now, and continue to be, highly effective.

I hope to see you presently.

With best regards to you and Helen, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES

Admiral R.L. Conolly, USN(Ret)
President, Long Island University
385 Flatbush Avenue Extension
Brooklyn 1, New York

0058

9 April 1954

Dear Dick:

This morning we received word from Washington that Mr. Zeckendorf had been cleared, so his invitation will immediately be forthcoming.

The reasons for the delay are not known.

I find out now that Mr. Zeckendorf's name along with many others has been in Washington for clearance since last October. We only got him cleared by calling up on the telephone and by asking for special action on some of the names, one of which, of course, was Mr. Zeckendorf.

I note that your friends, Van Atten, Willie Hearst, Jr. and Sulzberger have all accepted.

My very best to you and Helen and with very best wishes for the Easter Season, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES

Admiral Richard L. Conolly, USN(Ret)
President, Long Island University
385 Flatbush Avenue Extension
Brooklyn 1, New York

0059

April 15, 1954

Dear Reg:

This is in reply to your letter of April 5th relative to the Casino and "Fuzzy" Theobald's book.

With regards to the Casino, I am not quite sure. As far as I am concerned it would be quite satisfactory to have a box with you although I generally give my box away to the officers in my office, which I cannot do if I share it with anyone. Last year the question arose whether I would share a box with Kitty Jonnason. Finally, it was decided in the negative for the reasons stated. I will check up over this weekend as to whether there are any good boxes. Actually, although I have had a box, the "social lions" prefer to have an umbrella. I will look into that matter also and will advise you.

Don't feel that I am acting in a negative manner here, because I am not. I would like nothing better than to sit there with you so please don't feel this closed until I get the dope from the Casino.

Of course, I knew that Draper had made his number as Captain. I told you long ago that there was nothing to it for two reasons: (1) Because he is quite a capable officer and (2) because there is no promotion to Captain as it was in our day. When I made Captain only 60% were promoted, now it is 90%. I think that if Draper keeps up the good work he will have an excellent chance for his flag.

I thought "Fuzzy" Theobald's book was very well done and could be correct. I have never studied Pearl Harbor from the inside here nor has anyone else. However, I thought that Admiral Stark's reply as well as General Marshall's to the query as to what they thought of the book shows that "Fuzzy" was pretty nearly right. Both of the above gentlemen instead of saying it was untrue (if it was

0060

untrue they could readily say so) hid behind the fact that they had already testified and had nothing more to say.

With best regards to you and to your family and particularly with my greetings for the Easter Season, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R.W. RATES

Vice Admiral J.L. Kauffman, USN(Ret)
President
Jefferson Medical College & Medical Center
Philadelphia 7, Pa.

RWB:mwb

0061

22 April 1954

Dear Phil:

I know you won't like this and I don't like it either, but a situation has developed in New York concerning (1) my film of the Battle of Savo Island and (2) the annual banquet of the PT Boat Society, which forces me to be in New York on Friday the 30th rather than in Washington.

As regards the former, as you perhaps know, I am making a film of the Battle of Savo Island which must be finished by June 30th. It is essential that I review this film as its parts are ready, otherwise time will be lost. The firm called me and asked for April 30th. I tried to change the date to an earlier date, but that was not satisfactory. As regards the latter, as you perhaps also know, I was the Commander of the Motor Torpedo Boats Pacific Fleet and I was to have had an enormous command for the last operations against Japan. In New York there is a large PT Boat Society which has a three day meeting once each year which culminates in a dinner at the New York Yacht Club. The dinner this year is to be on April 30th. I tried to get out of this dinner on the firm ground that I might be in Washington, but I was called on the phone by one of the better known members and was asked to be present.

The combination of the two items above has been great enough to force me to deny myself the privilege of seeing you.

I am very sorry about this because I should like to have seen you in your quarters, and to have seen the Marines put on that brilliant parade which I have heard so much about.

I had expected, despite all of this, to be in Washington next week before going to New York, but that hasn't panned out either because Commander Bowker of my staff is being

0062

detached next week which is at least one month ahead of schedule, which makes it necessary for me to remain here until the last minute.

I don't know when you are leaving for Korea, but I feel it may be pretty soon. If I don't see you before you go overseas I wish you well. My associations with you and your wife have been very fine indeed and I think that your effect on the War College has been very favorable indeed.

Now that I know what I am going to do, I will drop a note to Marge.

Give my best regards to my friend General Shepherd. You might tell him for me that I was quite disappointed to see the number of the senior Marine generals going on the retired list. I hope that it meets with his approval.

With very best regards to you and Marge, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES

Colonel James P. Berkeley, USMC
Commanding Officer
Marine Barracks
8th & Eye Streets, E
Washington, D.C.

0063

April 28, 1954

Dear Admiral Hewitt:

I suppose when you receive this letter from me you will be in Europe, which should be very delightful to you as you have so many friends there.

These friends do not base their friendship entirely on good fellowship, but base it, in part, on their recognition of your great accomplishments in World War II. Although I have never felt that you have ever received adequate publish- recognition for your services, I think it well to inform you that the rank in the Navy well know, and appreciate, what you have accomplished. Do you think, for example, that I would ask you to give up your time to study my analysis of the Battle for Leyte Gulf if I did not feel that you had one of the outstanding military brains extant? In this connection I remember what Admiral Kinkaid said to me one day, "Why do you have Admiral Hewitt read your studies?" I said, "Because these are Pacific battles where he has no personal interest and because I consider his strategical and tactical brain very superior." And frankly, he hasn't bothered me since.

As you say, we are getting a new President of the War College who takes command next Monday. I am sure that he will be a welcome addition to the War College. Admiral Robbins has been doing very well indeed, but no one can fill the Chair of the President of the War College without the full authority that goes with it.

I don't know when you will get back, but I assure you that the Volume will await your judgement and will not be published until you have given it the once-over. You have read Volume I--that was the Volume you read several years ago. Volume II is the one I wish you to read now, and Volume III is well along. Another Volume, not yet numbered, the Battle of Surigao Straits, will be finished June 30th. Perhaps you will be able to review that also.

Admiral Conolly seems to be enjoying his new job. There is much more to it than collecting money. His organization is weak, his staff in many cases ancient, and his finances

0064

under no direct control of anybody. As a consequence he has had his troubles, but it is only by facing problems that we can conquer them and he is doing just this.

Fuzzy Theobald was here last week and is basking in the national recognition his book has given him. He is receiving 150 letters per day and numerous requests to lecture at a good fee. I think that there is much to the book!

With best regards to you and Floride and with hopes that your European jaunt is as nice as you anticipate and that upon your return to the States this summer you will be in fine fettle to attack my problems, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES

Admiral H. Kent Hewitt, USN(Ret)
"Foretop"
Orwell, Vermont

0065

"HAIL TO OUR JULIA"

May 1954

Hail to our Julia
Canastas' great Queen!
Flower of "The ^{ELAIS} ~~Story~~'s" and
Many a man's dream.

* * *

We gather around thee
To celebrate thy birth,
And give thanks to the Lord
Who placed thee on earth.

* * *

We note that the past
Has kept thee a belle,
We hope that the future
Will do just as well!

* * *

We want thee to know
That thee we do love.
We wish thee all happiness
From heaven above.

* * *

Hail to our Julia!
And this is our plea--
May there ever be many
Happy Birth~~days~~ays for thee!

0066

June 30, 1954

Dear George:

Last night I gave a dinner party at the Clambake Club for seventy-eight guests.

The dinner turned out admirably and judging from the messages received today, was especially well handled.

A large share of the credit for the success of this dinner is due to your manager, Mr. Chris Jerome. I don't think that I could have succeeded so well without his freely given, able and extremely helpful, advice and assistance. He worked very hard in rebuilding the large table to my specifications, and the design of the floral decorations which were very effective, was generally his. The food, chosen largely on his advice, was very well prepared, and the service was surprisingly good in view of the large number of guests.

I desire, therefore, to commend Mr. Jerome to you and to tell you what a great credit both he and his able staff, are to the Clambake Club.

With very best regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

R.W. BATES
Rear Admiral, USN

Mr. George Warren
President
Clambake Club
137 Bellevue Avenue
Newport, R.I.

0067

2 July 1954

Dear Commander Smith:

I have been referred to you by Rear Admiral T. H. Robbins the Chief of Staff of the Naval War College.

In inventorying my medals I find that the following medals are missing.

- (a) American Defense Service Medal
- (b) American Area Medal
- (c) Asiatic-Pacific Area Medal
- (d) World War II Victory Medal
- (e) National Defense Service Medal

It is understood that no medal is involved in "Navy Unit Commendation" and in "Philippine Liberation". If the Navy Unit Commendation does include a medal I have never received it.

I have my Navy Cross and My Legion of Merit in their original display boxes. I should like to retain them. If this is possible I require a Navy Cross and a Legion of Merit medal in addition.

I would be interested in learning whether or not I ever received the missing medals.

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES
Head WWII Battle Evaluation
Group

Lieutenant Commander E. P. Smith, USN
Director, Medals and Awards Division (Pers B4)
Bureau of Naval Personnel
Department of the Navy
Washington 25, D. C.

0068

July 2, 1954

Dear Dick & Helen:

Although I am a few days late in acknowledging your courtesy in having me as your house guest several weeks ago, I want you to know that I enjoyed myself thoroughly.

I always like to come to your "home" because there is a lot of happiness around there.

I think that in the Springtime and Summer with the flowers and the green grass and the cold breezes blowing through your house you are in a delightful position. If you, Dick, are as cool in your air-cooled office as you, Helen, are in your air-cooled home, you both should be very contented indeed!

I gave a dinner party at the Clambake Club the other night for Admiral and Mrs. McCormick to introduce them to the local populace, and it was very well received. If you will remember, I wanted to give a party for you when you first arrived here, but you turned me down. I was sorry about it, but your farewell party was so successful that I felt that perhaps it was just as well.

I haven't heard anything from Jack Bergen since he left here, so whether he is displeased with the College, with the situation here, or with me, I don't know. Anyway, he is a great fellow, and I am very fond of him.

The weather here is foggy, but cool and therefore very pleasant.

With very best regards and again, with many thanks, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES

Admiral & Mrs. Richard L. Conolly, USN(Ret)
President, Long Island University
385 Flatbush Avenue Extension
Brooklyn 1, New York

0069

July 16, 1954

Dear Mrs. O'Brien:

In accordance with the wishes of Mr. Robert Goelet, I am sending you the names of the following officers for invitation to his cocktail party to be held, I believe, the end of this month.

The list only includes Flag Officers and their wives. If you desire some Captains as well, I will send you those names later.

Vice Admiral and Mrs. Lynde D. McCormick
President House, U.S. Naval War College,
Newport, R.I.

Rear Admiral and Mrs. Thomas H. Robbins
Quarters No. 1, Fort Adams,
Newport, R.I.

Rear Admiral and Mrs. Charles C. Hartman
Commander Destroyers, Atlantic Fleet,
U.S.S. YOSEMITE (AD-19), c/o Fleet Post Office,
Newport, R.I.

Rear Admiral and Mrs. Joseph H. Wellings
Commander, U.S. Naval Base,
Newport, R.I.

Rear Admiral and Mrs. Donald C. Varian
Commander Destroyer Flotilla TWO,
U.S.S. ARCADIA (AD-23), c/o Fleet Post Office,
Newport, R.I.

Rear Admiral and Mrs. William G. Cooper
Commander Destroyer Flotilla SIX,
U.S.S. CASCADE (AD-16), c/o Fleet Post Office,
Newport, R.I.

Rear Admiral Richard W. Bates
U.S. Naval War College,
Newport, R.I.

With very best regards, I am,

Sincerely,

R. W. BATES

Mrs. Anna O'Brien
Bailey's Beach,
Newport, R.I.

0070

August 10, 1954

Dear Admiral:

Just a line to tell you and Mrs. Nimitz how pleased I was to have the privilege of seeing you again in your charming home. You are very happily domiciled there, and I liked very much the manner with which you are constantly improving your property.

My particular pleasure in this visit was in noting that you, Admiral, were looking very well indeed. I was happy to tell Admiral McCormick this morning how wonderful you really look. I saw that with a little surprise perhaps, because last summer when I saw you, I thought you did not look too well. Admiral McCormick was delighted to hear of the fine shape that both you and Mrs. Nimitz are in and to hear of how happy you are in your Berkeley surroundings. I told Admiral McCormick about your trip to Europe and of how much you enjoyed your Mediterranean section of that trip.

I was glad to note that you had received Volume I of the study of the Battle for Leyte Gulf. Volume II is completed and will be in the hands of the critics within a matter of days and will probably come out next summer. This volume relates to the operations of Rear Admiral Oldendorf with the advance forces and covers the period from the sighting of his command off the Eastern entrance to Leyte Gulf by the Japanese at 0719 October 17th until 2400 October 19th, at which time the Allied Main Forces were passing through the Eastern entrance to Leyte Gulf.

0071

I recollect that you told me that you had some data which contains your own viewpoints on the Battle for Leyte Gulf. I wonder if I could get that information from you so that when I come to the main battle I will have at hand the thoughts of the Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet.

If your son-in-law and daughter are remaining on Cape Cod for any period of time I should appreciate your courtesy if you would let me know so that I can do something about it. I want to say to Mrs. Nimitz, that I couldn't have been more pleased when I saw her in San Francisco at the St. Francis and noted the friendly manner in which I was greeted. She is a very fine person!

With best regards to you and yours, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, USN
728 Santa Barbara Road,
Berkeley 7, California

0072

13 August 1954

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

I have just returned from California where I have been for three weeks and I am therefore writing to you to thank you for the information which you sent me relative to my reading of the lesson at Trinity Church in conjunction with the British Admiral. I also want to thank you for the book on the Laminations of the Prophet Jerimiah which you sent me. I shall study it presently.

While in California I was reminded of the fact that my old friend, Andrew Wilson, spent a goodly portion of his early life there and made many friends in the whole area. There is an old statement that the "evil that men do lives after them, the good is oft intoned in their bones". This is certainly not true in the case of Andrew. Wherever I go I hear friendly words about him.

My trip to the Coast was partly pleasure and partly business. Pleasure was in the Bohemian Grove where I met many old friends and restored some of my lost vigor. Business had to do with my own family estate which now seems to be fairly cleared up.

I look forward to seeing you presently at which time I will ~~teak~~ tell you more about my operations. Until then, let me wish you all the happiness in the world!

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Mrs. Andrew Chalmers Wilson
"Ayrault House", 45 Catherine Street
Newport, R.I.

0073

13 August 1954

Dear Admiral Hewitt:

Thank you for your letter of July 6th, which contained the fine information that you had completely recovered from your virus pneumonia. I didn't know that you were sick, so I have not been worried about you. I have been away in California and only returned on Tuesday so that I have been unable to answer your letter until now.

I am anxious to have you review Volume II of the study of the Battle for Leyte Gulf and would appreciate a word from you that you are ready to receive it now. If you are ready I will send it to you immediately. This Volume II covers the period from the sighting of Rear Admiral Oldendorf's forces at the entrance to Leyte by the Japanese at 0719 on 17 October until the movement into the Gulf of the transports at 2400 on 19 October. I had considerable opportunity in this volume to discuss seapower and the Japanese concepts toward it, and I shall be interested in your reactions toward my philosophies.

I am sorry you feel quite as strongly as you do regarding Admiral Theobald's book. Of course, you were a one-man investigation board on the Pearl Harbor disaster and should have better information than most. I don't accept Admiral Theobald's book as correct but I do think there are some points in it that bear further study. The Admiral's son thinks that the more criticism it gets, the more it will sell. You will be interested to know that Admiral Theobald received many requests from various organizations throughout the country to address them, so his book didn't entirely fall on stony ground.

I don't blame you for feeling concerned over inferences that you were biased. From what I have known of you throughout your Naval career, you were never a man to be biased. Sometimes a term like that is employed to prove one's point, even though not true. Such employment is recognized as a means to an end, but it is not a very good means as it often has repercussions against the writer.

0074

Give my best regards to Mrs. Hewitt, and congratulations on your recovery. Things are going along beautifully at the War College and Admiral McCormick is proving to be a tip-top president. All is well.

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Admiral H. Kent Hewitt, USN(Ret)
"Foretop"
Orwell, Vermont

0075

August 25, 1954

Dear Dr. Sprague:

I cannot tell you how much I enjoyed receiving your little "billet-doux" concerning the picture of myself in Holiday. Everyone seems to think the picture is a good one and I have received letters thereon from several places in the world, believe it or not.

Actually, if it means anything to you, the picture was taken last year, right after you had given me a once-over. Naturally I felt fine!

I think my color is good, as you suggest, but I certainly was not smoking a cigar. I do not smoke, and if your secretary had checked the medical record on me she would have discovered that fact. Also, I was a little surprised by your comment that my color was good because you told me one day, quote: "It doesn't make much difference how well you look - the only good thing you have in your life is the advanced age of your parents". I have been working on that principle ever since. Am I in error?

I am investigating at present the Battle for Leyte Gulf which will take some years. I have already finished one volume. So far it hasn't put me in jail, to spite the fact that it was very critical.

I have been away for the past month in California where I attended the Bohemian Grove, where - except for a kind of back sprain I got in swimming - I had a most enjoyable time.

0076

I think that I am about due for a check with you so if you will designate one or more days in September so that I can make a choice I shall be very happy to check in, not only because I would like to know how I really am, but also to say "hello" to an old friend who is so rarely in his office that his secretary has to sign his personal letters.

I hope that your absence was due to the fact that you were on a holiday. Doctor Bates suggests (for free) that you must have more time to fish and play lest you be missing another day.

Best regards

Cordially yours

R. W. BATES

Dr. Howard B. Sprague, M.D.
1180 Beacon Street
Brookline 46, Massachusetts

0077